

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph 3-10 and 23 as follows:

[0003] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 7,007,037 ~~10/192,411~~, filed on July 9, 2002, entitled OPAQUE TYPES, by Rajagopalan Govindarajan, Viswanathan Krishnamurthy, and Anil Nori;

[0004] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 7,028,037 ~~10/260,138~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled OPERATORS FOR ACCESSING HIERARCHICAL DATA IN A RELATIONAL SYSTEM, by Nipun Agarwal, Ravi Murthy, Eric Sedlar, Sivasankaran Chandrasekar and Fei Ge;

[0005] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 7,051,033 ~~10/260,384~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled PROVIDING A CONSISTENT HIERARCHICAL ABSTRACTION OF RELATIONAL DATA, by Nipun Agarwal, Eric Sedlar, Ravi Murthy and Namit Jain;

[0006] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 7,096,224 ~~10/259,278~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled MECHANISM FOR MAPPING XML SCHEMAS TO OBJECT-RELATIONAL DATABASE SYSTEMS, by Ravi Murthy, Muralidhar Krishnaprasad, Sivasankaran Chandrasekar, Eric Sedlar, Vishu Krishnamurthy and Nipun Agarwal;

[0007] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 7,047,250 ~~10/260,161~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled INDEXING TO EFFICIENTLY MANAGE VERSIONED DATA IN A DATABASE SYSTEM, by Nipun Agarwal, Eric Sedlar and Ravi Murthy;

[0008] U.S. Patent ~~Application Serial~~ No. 7,047,253 ~~10/256,524~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled MECHANISMS FOR STORING CONTENT AND PROPERTIES OF HIERARCHICALLY ORGANIZED RESOURCES, by Ravi Murthy, Eric Sedlar, Nipun Agarwal, and Neema Jalali;

[0009] U.S. Patent ~~Application~~ Serial No. 7,051,039 ~~10/259,176~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled MECHANISM FOR UNIFORM ACCESS CONTROL IN A DATABASE

SYSTEM, by Ravi Murthy, Eric Sedlar, Nipun Agarwal, Sam Idicula, and Nicolas Montoya;

[00010] U.S. Patent ~~Application~~ Serial No. 7,092,967 ~~10/256,777~~, filed on September 27, 2002, entitled LOADABLE UNITS FOR LAZY MANIFESTATION OF XML

DOCUMENTS by Syam Pannala, Eric Sedlar, Bhushan Khaladkar, Ravi Murthy, Sivasankaran Chandrasekar, and Nipun Agarwal;

[0023] One kind of opaque type is an XML type. An example of an XML type is provided in co-pending U.S. Patent ~~Application~~ No. 7,096,224 ~~10/259,278~~. “XML” stands for “Extensible Markup Language.” An XML schema is metadata that describes a hierarchical structure. Instances of the XML schema comprise data that conforms to the structure described by the XML schema. Through XML elements expressed in the structure, an XML schema defines one or more types. XML elements in such a structure may be mapped to columns of database tables. Using the conventional path loading approach, values that correspond to the XML elements may be stored in the columns that are mapped to those XML elements.